

### REMARKS

The Office Action of March 26, 2004 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 were rejected as being anticipated by Zou, or unpatentable over Zou in view of Brotz. Additionally, claims 1 and 2 were rejected as being anticipated by Drehmel. The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the cited references. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In particular, claims 1, 22 and 25 have been amended to recite that multiple serial buses are aggregated to satisfy a single communication request. No such feature is believed to be taught or suggested by the cited references.

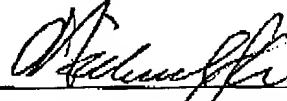
With respect to Drehmel, the Office Action states in part: "Drehmel discloses the claimed invention including a home control platform comprising: a plurality of serial buses (e.g., PCI bus; col. 5, line 52)...." The PCI bus, however, is not a serial bus but rather is a parallel bus.

With respect to Zou, the multiple 1394 buses of Figure 1A are point-to-point. There is not teaching or suggestion in Zou of aggregating multiple serial buses to satisfy a single communication request as currently recited.

Accordingly, claims 1, 22 and 25 are believed to patentably define over the cited references.

Dependent claims 2-21, 23, 24 and 26-30 are also believed to add novel and patentable subject matter to their respective independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-30 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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